



General Assembly

January Session, 2015

***Raised Bill No. 6835***

LCO No. 4036



Referred to Committee on EDUCATION

Introduced by:  
(ED)

***AN ACT CONCERNING ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 10-17f of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2015*):

3 (a) Annually, the board of education for each local and regional  
4 school district shall ascertain, in accordance with regulations adopted  
5 by the State Board of Education, the eligible students in such school  
6 district and shall classify such students according to their dominant  
7 language.

8 (b) Whenever [it is ascertained that there are in any public school  
9 within a local or regional school district twenty or more eligible  
10 students classified as dominant in any one language other than  
11 English, the board of education of such district] such board of  
12 education ascertains that six or more students in a public school under  
13 the jurisdiction of such board of education is classified as dominant in  
14 any language other than English pursuant to subsection (a) of this  
15 section, such board shall provide a program of bilingual education for

16 each such eligible [students] student for the school year next following.  
17 Eligible students shall be placed in such program in accordance with  
18 subsection (e) of this section.

19 (c) On or before July 1, 2000, the State Board of Education, within  
20 available appropriations, shall develop a state English mastery  
21 standard to assess the linguistic and academic progress of students in  
22 programs of bilingual education. On and after September 1, 2000, each  
23 local and regional board of education shall assess, annually, the  
24 progress made by each student toward meeting the state standard. If a  
25 student is not making sufficient progress toward meeting the state  
26 standard based on the assessment, the local or regional board of  
27 education shall provide language support services to the student in  
28 consultation with the parent or guardian of the student to allow the  
29 student to meet the state standard. Such services may include, but  
30 need not be limited to, summer school, after-school assistance and  
31 tutoring. If a student meets the state standard based on the assessment,  
32 the student shall leave the program. Each local and regional board of  
33 education shall document on a student's permanent record the date the  
34 student begins in a program of bilingual education and the date and  
35 results of the assessments required pursuant to this subsection.

36 (d) Each local and regional board of education shall limit the time  
37 an eligible student spends in a program of bilingual education to  
38 [thirty] sixty months, whether or not such months are consecutive,  
39 except that summer school and any two-way language programs  
40 established pursuant to subsection (i) of this section shall not be  
41 counted. If an eligible student does not meet the English mastery  
42 standard at the end of [thirty] sixty months, the local or regional board  
43 of education shall provide language transition and academic support  
44 services to such student. Such services may include, but need not be  
45 limited to, English as a second language programs, sheltered English  
46 programs, English immersion programs [, tutoring and homework  
47 assistance, provided such services may not include a program of  
48 bilingual education] or other research-based language development

49 programs. Families may also receive guidance from school  
50 professionals to help their children make progress in their native  
51 language. If an eligible student enrolls in a secondary school when the  
52 student has fewer than [thirty] twenty months remaining before  
53 graduation, the local or regional board of education shall assign the  
54 student to an English as a second language program and may provide  
55 intensive services to the student to enable the student to speak, write  
56 and comprehend English by the time the student graduates and to  
57 meet the course requirements for graduation.

58 (e) Each local and regional board of education shall hold a meeting  
59 with the parents and legal guardians of eligible students to explain the  
60 benefits of the language program options available in the school  
61 district, including an English language immersion program. The  
62 parents and legal guardians may bring an interpreter or an advisor to  
63 the meeting. If the parent or legal guardian of an eligible student opts  
64 to have such student placed in a program of bilingual education, the  
65 local or regional board of education shall place the child in such  
66 program.

67 (f) The board of education for each local and regional school district  
68 which is required to provide a program of bilingual education shall  
69 initially endeavor to implement the provisions of subsection (b) of this  
70 section through in-service training for existing certified professional  
71 employees, and thereafter, shall give preference in hiring to such  
72 certified professional employees as are required to maintain the  
73 program.

74 (g) The State Board of Education shall adopt regulations, in  
75 accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, to establish requirements  
76 for: (1) Such programs, which may be modeled after policy established  
77 by the Department of Education for bilingual education programs; (2)  
78 local and regional boards of education to integrate bilingual and  
79 English as a second language program faculty in all staff, planning and  
80 curriculum development activities; and (3) all bilingual education

81 teachers employed by a local or regional board of education, on and  
82 after July 1, 2001, to meet all certification requirements, including  
83 completion of a teacher preparation program approved by the State  
84 Board of Education, or to be certified through an alternate route to  
85 certification program.

86 (h) Each board of education for a local and regional school district  
87 which is required to provide for the first time a program of bilingual  
88 education shall prepare and submit to the Commissioner of Education  
89 for review a plan to implement such program, in accordance with  
90 regulations adopted by the State Board of Education.

91 (i) Each local and regional board of education that is required to  
92 provide a program of bilingual education pursuant to this section shall  
93 investigate the feasibility of establishing two-way language programs  
94 starting in kindergarten.

95 Sec. 2. Section 10-17g of the general statutes is repealed and the  
96 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2015*):

97 Annually, the board of education for each local and regional school  
98 district that is required to provide a program of bilingual education,  
99 pursuant to section 10-17f, as amended by this act, may make  
100 application to the State Board of Education and shall thereafter receive  
101 a grant in an amount equal to the product obtained by multiplying the  
102 total appropriation available for such purpose by the ratio which the  
103 number of eligible children in the school district bears to the total  
104 number of such eligible children state-wide. The board of education for  
105 each local and regional school district receiving funds pursuant to this  
106 section shall annually, on or before September first, submit to the State  
107 Board of Education a progress report which shall include (1) measures  
108 of increased educational opportunities for eligible students, including  
109 language support services and language transition support services  
110 provided to such students, (2) program evaluation and measures of the  
111 effectiveness of its bilingual education and English as a second

112 language programs, including data on students in bilingual education  
113 programs and students educated exclusively in English as a second  
114 language programs, and (3) certification by the board of education  
115 submitting the report that any funds received pursuant to this section  
116 have been used for the purposes specified. The State Board of  
117 Education shall annually evaluate programs conducted pursuant to  
118 section 10-17f, as amended by this act. For purposes of this section,  
119 measures of the effectiveness of bilingual education and English as a  
120 second language programs include, but need not be limited to, mastery  
121 examination results, under section 10-14n, and graduation and school  
122 dropout rates. Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, for the  
123 fiscal years ending June 30, 2009, to June 30, 2015, inclusive, the  
124 amount of grants payable to local or regional boards of education  
125 under this section shall be reduced proportionately if the total of such  
126 grants in such year exceeds the amount appropriated for such grants  
127 for such year.

128 Sec. 3. Section 10-17j of the general statutes is repealed and the  
129 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2015*):

130 (a) If a local or regional board of education is not able to hire a  
131 sufficient number of certified bilingual education teachers for a school  
132 year, the board of education [may] shall apply to the Commissioner of  
133 Education for permission to use a certified teacher of English as a  
134 second language to fill its need and the commissioner may grant such  
135 request for good cause shown.

136 (b) The Department of Education shall promote and encourage  
137 teacher exchange programs and provide information to local and  
138 regional boards of education on such programs in order to increase  
139 foreign language proficiency and cultural understanding.

140 Sec. 4. (*Effective from passage*) The Department of Education shall  
141 study the feasibility of using regional educational service centers to  
142 assist local and regional boards of education with a low enrollment of

143 eligible students under subsection (b) of section 10-17f of the general  
144 statutes, as amended by this act, in the provision of programs of  
145 bilingual education and language transition and academic support  
146 services. Such programs and services may include, but need not be  
147 limited to, English as second language programs, sheltered English  
148 programs, English immersion programs or other research-based  
149 language development programs, described in section 10-17f of the  
150 general statutes, as amended by this act. Not later than January 1, 2016,  
151 the department shall submit a report on its findings and  
152 recommendations to the joint standing committee of the General  
153 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education, in  
154 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2015</i>	10-17f
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2015</i>	10-17g
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2015</i>	10-17j
Sec. 4	<i>from passage</i>	New section

Section 1	<i>July 1, 2015</i>	10-17f
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2015</i>	10-17g
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2015</i>	10-17j
Sec. 4	<i>from passage</i>	New section

***Statement of Purpose:***

To require school districts to provide a program of bilingual education when there are six or more eligible students enrolled in a public school; to increase the time a student may spend in a program of bilingual education from thirty months to sixty months; to expand the measures used to evaluate the effectiveness of bilingual education and English as a second language programs; to provide school districts flexibility in who may provide instruction as part of the bilingual education requirement; and to require the Department of Education to study the feasibility of regional educational service centers providing assistance to school districts for the provision of bilingual education programs.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*